

minutes had 1695. We were back at Boldre by 1 p.m. Of these, 1294 were subsequently returned and many fine underside forms were retained. These resembled those bred in 1945 but the black markings were much heavier.

These were duly exhibited at the South London Exhibition.

What of the status of *cinxia* generally in the island? Collectors visiting many of the old localities will find it greatly reduced in numbers, or absent altogether. The foodplant no longer flourishes, being choked with the coarse grass and brambles which were previously kept in check by the rabbits.

However, if one is prepared for a walk of several miles, *cinxia* can still be observed in thousands. The island coast is subject to constant erosion, and cliff falls are numerous. I have often seen masses of larvae in positions inaccessible except for a climber with suitable ropes.

In my opinion there is no danger to this species in the foreseeable future but larvae should not be taken in numbers unless the imagines can be returned.

"Porcorum," Sandy Down, Boldre, Lymington.

Discovery of the Larva of *Sorhagenia rhamniella* Zeller

By Lieut.-Col. A. M. EMMET, M.B.E., T.D.

Writing in 1966 (*Ent. Rec.*, 78: 9) Mr. S. Wakely summed up the information then existing about the three species of *Sorhagenia*, and his article should be read as an introduction to these notes. He described the larval habits of *S. lophyrella* Douglas and *S. janiszewskae* Reidl but stated that the early stages of *S. rhamniella* Zeller were still unknown. In 1966 Wakely and I twice visited Wicken Fen to search for larvae of this species, our visits being on the 19th of May and the 8th of June. On the first occasion we found the larvae of *lophyrella* plentiful on common buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus* L.) but *rhamniella* eluded us. I was convinced that the trouble was that we were too early, and resolved to search again later in the season when opportunity offered. The chance came this year, when I was able to visit the Fen on the 18th of June. I concentrated my attention on the alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus* Mill.) and in due course found an area where there was a number of spinnings on the tender terminal leaves. I collected over a dozen, but my breeding efforts were handicapped by illness which prevented me from renewing the foodplant. Nevertheless, from this material I had two *rhamniella* on the 7th and 9th of July, and three *Ancylis apiciella* Schiff. between the 4th and 14th of July. Probably only the most advanced larvae survived.

The life-histories of the three *Sorhagenia* species may be summarised as follows:—

S. lophyrella Dougl. As far as is known, it is confined to *Rhamnus catharticus*. The larva feeds in mid-May in the terminal shoots, spinning leaves together. The moths emerge in mid-June. This appears to be the commonest of the three and probably has the widest distribution. Most *Sorhagenias* in collections are likely to belong to this species.

S. janiszewskae Reidl. The larva feeds on the pith of the terminal

shoots of *Frangula alnus*, causing them to droop; it leaves the mine to pupate. Early June is the time to look for the larvae, and the moths emerge in early July. The species has been recorded from Kent (Blean Woods), Sussex (Ashdown Forest) and Hampshire (New Forest).

S. rhamniella Zell. The larva feeds in middle to late June in spun terminal leaves of *Frangula alnus*. The moths begin to emerge in mid-July and continue on the wing until late August (they were still plentiful and in fair condition on the 20th August 1968). So far the species has only been recorded from Wicken Fen.

The moths are very similar in appearance and difficult to differentiate without examination of the genitalia. I only possess a single specimen of *janiszewskae* bred from a pupa given me by Wakely, so I cannot pronounce on that species; but when viewed in series the other two show a measure of difference. There is, however, some overlapping, so it would be difficult to be certain about an individual moth.

Lophyrella is the larger moth (average wing-spread 11 mm.) and the wings are more variegated and colourful. In particular, the basal half of the dorsum forms an ochreous background to the scale-tuft on the fold. In most specimens there is an angulated pale fascia "at three quarters", and black raised scales beyond.

By contrast, *rhamniella* is smaller (average span 10 mm.) and the wings are more uniform in coloration. The dorsal area is paler but seldom ochreous, and then only faintly so, while the angulated fascia is rarely discernable. In general, the moth has a greyer appearance. In my material the white banding of the apical quarter of the antennae is less pronounced than in *lophyrella*, though this may be due to wear and tear.

The distinctions I have cited are based solely on Wicken specimens of the two species, and take no account of possible local variation. My *lophyrella* are all bred, but the majority of my *rhamniella* were caught wild, though my two bred specimens confirm the points of difference I have noted. It is probably safe to say that June moths are *lophyrella*, August moths *rhamniella*, but July moths might be any of the three species.

Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex. 16.xi.1968.

Discovery of the Larva of *Ancylis paludana* Barrett

By Lieut-Col. A. M. EMMET, M.B.E., T.D.

Ancylis paludana Barr. is a moth which is confined to the fens of Cambridgeshire and Norfolk; according to Meyrick it is also doubtfully recorded from Germany but otherwise unknown on the continent. Although the moth is not uncommon in its restricted haunts, the larva has long remained undiscovered, though Meyrick hazards that it feeds on *Lathyrus*.

For the last two or three autumns I have collected larvae, which I suspected to belong to this species, at Wicken Fen. I have been successful in bringing them through the winter, but they have refused to pupate. This year I still had living larvae at the end of May—a date by which the first generation of the wild imagines should be flying. This reluctance to pupate in captivity seems to be characteristic of the genus, and probably explains why this species has not previously been bred.